

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

Amend claims: 1-15 and added new claims 16 and 17.

1. (Currently Amended) A vessel (1) for storing particulate matter, such as pulverised coal or fly ash, comprising a main part (2) and, at its bottom portion, at least one discharge device (3), which comprises a converging outer shell (10) and a permeable, converging inner shell (14) positioned in the outer shell (10), the discharge device (3) being connected to the main part (2) by means of a first flange (9) at or near the lower rim of the bottom portion of the main part (2) and a second flange (11) at or near the upper rim of the outer shell (10), whereby the inner shell (14) is secured at or near its upper rim to the inner wall of the outer shell (10) of the discharge device (3).
2. (Currently Amended) The vessel (1) of claim 1, wherein the inner shell (14) has been attached to the inner wall of the second flange (11).
3. (Currently Amended) The vessel (1) of claim 2, wherein the inner wall of the second flange (11) is provided with at least one lug or ring (13) and the inner shell (14) is attached to this lug or ring (13).
4. (Currently Amended) The vessel (1) of claim 2 or 3, wherein an element (22) for matching the inner wall of the main part (2) of the vessel (1) to the inner wall of the inner shell (14) has been attached to the inner wall of the first flange (9).
5. (Currently Amended) The vessel (1) according to any one of claims 2-4, wherein the upper rim (15) of the inner shell (14) extends at least substantially flush with the face of the second flange (11).
6. (Currently Amended) The vessel (1) according to any one of the claims 2-5, wherein the connection between the inner shell (14) and the outer shell (10) is sealed by means of a gasket (13').

7. (Currently Amended) The vessel (1) according to of claim 1, wherein the inner shell (14) is secured at or near its upper rim to the inner wall of the outer shell (10) of the discharge device (3) to avoid clamping a flange forming the upper rim of the inner shell (14) between said first flange (9) and second flange (11).

8. (Currently Amended) A vessel (1) for storing particulate matter, such as pulverised pulverized coal or fly ash, comprising a main part (2) and, at its bottom portion, at least one discharge device (3), which comprises a converging outer shell (10) and a permeable, converging inner shell (14) positioned in the outer shell (10), the discharge device (3) being connected to the main part (2) by means of a first flange (9) at or near the lower rim of the bottom portion of the main part (2) and a second flange (11) at or near the upper rim of the outer shell (10), whereby the outer shell (10) comprises, at its bottom portion, a third flange (12) and whereby the lower portion (17) of the inner shell (14) is cylindrical and positioned in line with the central opening of the third flange (12) and/or extends through this opening.

9. (Currently Amended) The vessel (1) according to of claim 8, wherein a stuffing box assembly (23) is positioned between the cylindrical lower portion (17) of the inner shell (14) and the outer shell (10), which assembly (23) seals the cavity (20) defined by the inner shell (14) and the outer shell (10).

10. (Currently Amended) The vessel (1) according to any one of the preceding claims 1, wherein all the said flanges (9,11,12) are standardised standardized flanges.

11. (Currently Amended) The vessel (1) according to any one of the preceding claims 1, wherein the outer shell (10) is provided with at least one inlet (10') for injecting gas into the cavity (20) defined by the outer shell (10) and the inner shell (14), which inlet (10') runs substantially perpendicular to the central axis (A) of the vessel (1).

12. (Currently Amended) A discharge device (3) for use in a vessel (1) for storing particulate matter, such as pulverised pulverized coal or fly ash, comprising a converging outer shell (10) and a permeable, converging inner shell (14) positioned in the outer shell

(10), wherein the inner shell (14) is secured at or near its upper rim to the inner wall of the outer shell (10).

13. (Currently Amended) The discharge device (3) of claim 12, wherein the inner shell (14) has been attached to the inner wall of the outer shell (10).

14. (Currently Amended) The discharge device (3) of claim 12 or 13, comprising a flange (11) forming the upper rim of the outer shell (10), the inner shell (14) being attached to the inner wall of this flange (11).

15. (Currently Amended) The discharge device (3) of claim 14, wherein the upper rim (15) of the inner shell (14) extends at least substantially flush with the upper rim of the said flange (11).

16. (New) The vessel claim 8, wherein all the said flanges are standardized flanges.

17. (New) The vessel of claim 8, wherein the outer shell is provided with at least one inlet (10') for injecting gas into the cavity defined by the outer shell and the inner shell, which inlet (10') runs substantially perpendicular to the central axis (A) of the vessel.